

7682(a) of title 38, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 23, 2002], who—

“(A) was appointed as an employee in a position described in paragraph (1) of that section, as so in effect, between January 1, 1999, and December 31, 2001; and

“(B) is an employee in such position, or in another position described in paragraph (1) of that section, as so in effect, at the time of application for treatment as a covered individual under this subsection.

“(3) The Secretary shall make determinations regarding the exercise of the authority in this subsection on a case-by-case basis.

“(4) The Secretary may not exercise the authority in this subsection after June 30, 2002. The expiration of the authority in this subsection shall not affect the treatment of an individual under this subsection before that date as a covered individual for purposes of eligibility in the Education Debt Reduction Program.

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘Education Debt Reduction Program’ means the Department of Veterans Affairs Education Debt Reduction Program under subchapter VII of chapter 76 of title 38, United States Code.”

#### SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 7683 of this title.

### § 7683. Education debt reduction

(a) IN GENERAL.—Education debt reduction payments under the Education Debt Reduction Program shall consist of payments to individuals selected to participate in the program of amounts to reimburse such individuals for payments by such individuals of principal and interest on loans described in section 7682(a)(2) of this title.

(b) FREQUENCY OF PAYMENT.—(1) The Secretary may make education debt reduction payments to any given participant in the Education Debt Reduction Program on a monthly or annual basis, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) The Secretary shall make such payments at the end of the period determined by the Secretary under paragraph (1).

(c) PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may make education debt reduction payments to a participant in the Education Debt Reduction Program for a period only if the Secretary determines that the individual maintained an acceptable level of performance in the position or positions served by the participant during the period.

(d) MAXIMUM ANNUAL AMOUNT.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the amount of education debt reduction payments made to a participant under the Education Debt Reduction Program may not exceed \$44,000 over a total of five years of participation in the Program, of which not more than \$10,000 of such payments may be made in each of the fourth and fifth years of participation in the Program.

(2) The total amount payable to a participant in such Program for any year may not exceed the amount of the principal and interest on loans referred to in subsection (a) that is paid by the individual during such year.

(Added Pub. L. 105-368, title VIII, §803(a), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3357; amended Pub. L. 107-135, title I, §102(c), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2448.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 107-135 struck out “for a year” after “a participant” and substituted “exceed

\$44,000 over a total of five years of participation in the Program, of which not more than \$10,000 of such payments may be made in each of the fourth and fifth years of participation in the Program” for “exceed—

“(A) \$6,000 for the first year of the participant's participation in the Program;

“(B) \$8,000 for the second year of the participant's participation in the Program; and

“(C) \$10,000 for the third year of the participant's participation in the Program”.

#### SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 7631 of this title.

### § 7684. Repealed. Pub. L. 107-135, title I, § 102(a)(1), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2448]

Section, added Pub. L. 105-368, title VIII, §803(a), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3358, provided that the Secretary could not make education debt reduction payments to individuals who had not commenced participation in the Education Debt Reduction Program before Dec. 31, 2001.

## CHAPTER 77—VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

### SUBCHAPTER I—ORGANIZATION; GENERAL

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#### AMENDMENTS

2001—Pub. L. 107-14, §6(b)(2), June 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 31, added item 7727.

1999—Pub. L. 106-117, title VIII, §801(a)(2), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1586, added heading for subchapter III and items 7731 to 7734.

#### CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in sections 317, 318, 3672 of this title.

### SUBCHAPTER I—ORGANIZATION; GENERAL

#### § 7701. Organization of the Administration

(a) There is in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Benefits Administration. The primary function of the Veterans Benefits Administration is the administration of non-medical benefits programs of the Department which provide assistance to veterans and their dependents and survivors.

(b) The Veterans Benefits Administration is under the Under Secretary for Benefits, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Administration. The Under Secretary for Benefits may be referred to as the Chief Benefits Director.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(b), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 399; amended Pub. L. 102-405, title III, §302(c)(1), (3), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1984.)

## AMENDMENTS

1992—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-405 substituted “Under Secretary for Benefits” for “Chief Benefits Director” and inserted at end “The Under Secretary for Benefits may be referred to as the Chief Benefits Director.”

**§ 7703. Functions of the Administration**

The Veterans Benefits Administration is responsible for the administration of the following programs of the Department:

- (1) Compensation and pension programs.
- (2) Vocational rehabilitation and educational assistance programs.
- (3) Veterans' housing loan programs.
- (4) Veterans' and servicemembers' life insurance programs.
- (5) Outreach programs and other veterans' services programs.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(b), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 399.)

## SUBCHAPTER II—VETERANS OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM

### SUBCHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This subchapter is referred to in section 3485 of this title; title 29 section 2913.

**§ 7721. Purpose; definitions**

(a) The Congress declares that the outreach services program authorized by this subchapter is for the purpose of ensuring that all veterans (especially those who have been recently discharged or released from active military, naval, or air service and those who are eligible for readjustment or other benefits and services under laws administered by the Department) are provided timely and appropriate assistance to aid and encourage them in applying for and obtaining such benefits and services in order that they may achieve a rapid social and economic readjustment to civilian life and obtain a higher standard of living for themselves and their dependents. The Congress further declares that the outreach services program authorized by this subchapter is for the purpose of charging the Department with the affirmative duty of seeking out eligible veterans and eligible dependents and providing them with such services.

(b) For the purposes of this subchapter—

- (1) the term “other governmental programs” includes all programs under State or local laws as well as all programs under Federal law other than those authorized by this title; and
- (2) the term “eligible dependent” means a spouse, surviving spouse, child, or dependent parent of a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(b), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 400; amended Pub. L. 107-14, §6(a), June 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 30.)

### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 240 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

## AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 107-14 amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “the term ‘eligible dependent’ means an ‘eligible person’ as defined in section 3501(a)(1) of this title.”

### REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ASSIST HOMELESS VETERANS

Pub. L. 103-446, title X, §1001(a), (b), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4678, 4679, as amended by Pub. L. 105-114, title II, §204, Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2288; Pub. L. 107-103, title V, §509(e), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 997, directed in subsec. (a) that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submit to Congress an annual report of activities of Department of Veterans Affairs to assist homeless veterans. Subsec. (a) was repealed and restated in section 2065 of this title by Pub. L. 107-95, §5(a)(1), (e)(2), Dec. 21, 2001, 115 Stat. 914, 918. Subsec. (b) was previously repealed by Pub. L. 105-114, title II, §204(2), Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2288.

### HOMELESS VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS

Pub. L. 102-590, §§2-4, Nov. 10, 1992, 106 Stat. 5136-5139, as amended by Pub. L. 103-446, title X, §1003, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4679; Pub. L. 104-110, title I, §102(c)(1), (2), Feb. 13, 1996, 110 Stat. 769; Pub. L. 105-114, title II, §§202(c)(3), 203(b), Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2287, 2288; Pub. L. 106-117, title IX, §903(1)-(3), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1587; Pub. L. 107-14, §8(c), June 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 36, which provided for a grant program to assist eligible entities in establishing new programs to furnish, and expanding existing programs for furnishing, outreach, rehabilitative services, vocational counseling and training, and transitional housing assistance to homeless veterans and per diem payments to grant recipients for furnishing services to homeless veterans, was repealed and restated in sections 2011 and 2012 of this title by Pub. L. 107-95, §5(a)(1), (e)(1), Dec. 21, 2001, 115 Stat. 906, 918.

### ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Pub. L. 102-590, §10, Nov. 10, 1992, 106 Stat. 5141, directed Secretary of Veterans Affairs, not later than May 1 of each of 1994, 1995, and 1996, to submit to Committees on Veterans' Affairs of Senate and House of Representatives a report on implementation of Pub. L. 102-590, including information on (1) number of veterans assisted, (2) services provided, and (3) Secretary's analysis of operational and clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of programs established under, or with assistance provided by, Pub. L. 102-590, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 103-446, title X, §1001(c), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4679.

### AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Pub. L. 102-590, §12, Nov. 10, 1992, 106 Stat. 5142, as amended by Pub. L. 103-446, title X, §1004, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4679; Pub. L. 104-110, title I, §102(c)(3), Feb. 13, 1996, 110 Stat. 769; Pub. L. 106-117, title IX, §903(4), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1587, which authorized appropriations for fiscal years 1993 through 1997 and 2000 and 2001, was repealed by Pub. L. 107-95, §5(e)(1), Dec. 21, 2001, 115 Stat. 918.

**§ 7722. Outreach services**

(a) In carrying out the purposes of this subchapter, the Secretary shall provide the outreach services specified in subsections (b) through (d). In areas where a significant number of eligible veterans and eligible dependents speak a language other than English as their principal language, such services shall, to the maximum feasible extent, be provided in the principal language of such persons.

(b) The Secretary shall by letter advise each veteran at the time of the veteran's discharge or release from active military, naval, or air service (or as soon as possible after such discharge or release) of all benefits and services under laws administered by the Department for which the veteran may be eligible. In carrying out this

subsection, the Secretary shall ensure, through the use of veteran-student services under section 3485 of this title, that contact, in person or by telephone, is made with those veterans who, on the basis of their military service records, do not have a high school education or equivalent at the time of discharge or release.

(c)(1) The Secretary shall distribute full information to eligible veterans and eligible dependents regarding all benefits and services to which they may be entitled under laws administered by the Department and may, to the extent feasible, distribute information on other governmental programs (including manpower and training programs) which the Secretary determines would be beneficial to veterans.

(2) Whenever a veteran or dependent first applies for any benefit under laws administered by the Secretary (including a request for burial or related benefits or an application for life insurance proceeds), the Secretary shall provide to the veteran or dependent information concerning benefits and health care services under programs administered by the Secretary. Such information shall be provided not later than three months after the date of such application.

(d) The Secretary shall provide, to the maximum extent possible, aid and assistance (including personal interviews) to members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and eligible dependents with respect to subsections (b) and (c) and in the preparation and presentation of claims under laws administered by the Department.

(e) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall assign such employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration as the Secretary considers appropriate to conduct outreach programs and provide outreach services for homeless veterans. Such outreach services may include site visits through which homeless veterans can be identified and provided assistance in obtaining benefits and services that may be available to them.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(b), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 400; amended Pub. L. 102-590, §5, Nov. 10, 1992, 106 Stat. 5139; Pub. L. 107-103, title III, §304, Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 992.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 241 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

#### AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-103 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1992—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 102-590 added subsec. (e).

#### INFORMATION TO ASSIST VETERANS RECEIVING EDUCATION BENEFITS

Pub. L. 101-237, title IV, §421, Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2088, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of assisting individuals receiving education benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prepare, and update periodically, a document containing a detailed description of the benefits, limitations, procedures, requirements, and other important aspects of the education programs administered by the Department.

“(b) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall, beginning in fiscal year 1990 but not before July 1, 1990, distribute copies of such document—

“(1) to each individual applying for benefits under an education program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and to each such individual at least annually in the years thereafter in which the individual receives such benefits;

“(2) to education and training institution officials on at least an annual basis; and

“(3) upon request, to other individuals significantly affected by education programs administered by the Secretary, including military education personnel.

“(c) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds appropriated to the readjustment benefits account of the Department to carry out this section.”

#### OUTREACH SERVICES

Pub. L. 100-687, div. B, title XII, §1204, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4125, as amended by Pub. L. 102-4, §4, Feb. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 15; Pub. L. 102-83, §6(k)(2), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 409, provided that:

“(a) ONGOING OUTREACH PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct an active, continuous outreach program for furnishing to veterans of active military, naval, or air service who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era information relating to—

“(A) the health risks (if any) resulting from exposure during that service to dioxin or any other toxic agent in herbicides used in support of United States and allied military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era; and

“(B) services and benefits available to such veterans with respect to such health risks.

“(2) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall annually furnish updated information on health risks described in paragraph (1)(A) to veterans referred to in paragraph (1).

“(b) INFORMATION IN AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take reasonable actions to organize and update the information contained in the Department of Veterans Affairs Agent Orange Registry in a manner that enables the Secretary promptly to notify a veteran of any increased health risk for such veteran resulting from exposure of such veteran to dioxin or any other toxic agent referred to in subsection (a) during Vietnam-era service in the Republic of Vietnam whenever the Secretary determines, on the basis of physical examination or other pertinent information, that such veteran is subject to such an increased health risk.”

#### SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 4214 of this title.

#### § 7723. Veterans assistance offices

(a) The Secretary shall establish and maintain veterans assistance offices at such places throughout the United States and its territories and possessions, and in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. The Secretary may maintain such offices on such military installations located elsewhere as the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Defense and taking into account recommendations, if any, of the Secretary of Labor, determines to be necessary to carry out such purposes. In establishing and maintaining such offices, the Secretary shall give due regard to—

(1) the geographical distribution of veterans recently discharged or released from active military, naval, or air service;

(2) the special needs of educationally disadvantaged veterans (including their need for accessibility of outreach services); and

(3) the necessity of providing appropriate outreach services in less populated areas.

(b) The Secretary shall establish and carry out all possible programs and services, including special telephone facilities, as may be necessary to make the outreach services provided for under this subchapter as widely available as possible.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(b), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 401; amended Pub. L. 107-103, title III, §301, Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 991; Pub. L. 108-183, title III, §309(c)(1), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2663.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 242 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

#### AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-183 inserted “and taking into account recommendations, if any, of the Secretary of Labor” after “Secretary of Defense” in second sentence of introductory provisions.

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-103 inserted after first sentence “The Secretary may maintain such offices on such military installations located elsewhere as the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Defense, determines to be necessary to carry out such purposes.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENTS

Pub. L. 108-183, title III, §309(c)(2), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2663, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to offices established after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 16, 2003].”

#### SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 4113 of this title.

### § 7724. Outstationing of counseling and outreach personnel

The Secretary may station employees of the Department at locations other than Department offices, including educational institutions, to provide counseling and other assistance regarding benefits under this title to veterans and other persons eligible for benefits under this title and to provide outreach services under this subchapter.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(b), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 401.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 243 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

#### SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 4214 of this title.

### § 7725. Use of other agencies

In carrying out this subchapter, the Secretary shall do the following:

(1) Arrange with the Secretary of Labor for the State employment service to match the particular qualifications of an eligible veteran or eligible dependent with an appropriate job or job training opportunity, including, where possible, arrangements for outstationing the State employment personnel who provide such assistance at appropriate facilities of the Department.

(2) In consultation with the Secretary of Labor, actively seek to promote the develop-

ment and establishment of employment opportunities, training opportunities, and other opportunities for veterans, with particular emphasis on the needs of veterans with service-connected disabilities and other eligible veterans, taking into account applicable rates of unemployment and the employment emphases set forth in chapter 42 of this title.

(3) Cooperate with and use the services of any Federal department or agency or any State or local governmental agency or recognized national or other organization.

(4) Where appropriate, make referrals to any Federal department or agency or State or local governmental unit or recognized national or other organization.

(5) At the Secretary of Veterans Affairs discretion, furnish available space and office facilities for the use of authorized representatives of such governmental unit or other organization providing services.

(6) Conduct and provide for studies in consultation with appropriate Federal departments and agencies to determine the most effective program design to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(b), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 401.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 244 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

### § 7726. Annual report to Congress

The Secretary shall include in the annual report to the Congress required by section 529 of this title a report on the activities carried out under this subchapter. Each such report shall include an appraisal of the effectiveness of the programs authorized in this subchapter and recommendations for the improvement or more effective administration of those programs.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(b), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 402.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 245 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

### § 7727. Outreach for eligible dependents

(a) In carrying out this subchapter, the Secretary shall ensure that the needs of eligible dependents are fully addressed.

(b) The Secretary shall ensure that the availability of outreach services and assistance for eligible dependents under this subchapter is made known through a variety of means, including the Internet, announcements in veterans publications, and announcements to the media.

(Added Pub. L. 107-14, §6(b)(1), June 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 31.)

## SUBCHAPTER III—QUALITY ASSURANCE

### § 7731. Establishment

(a) The Secretary shall carry out a quality assurance program in the Veterans Benefits Administration. The program may be carried out

through a single quality assurance division in the Administration or through separate quality assurance entities for each of the principal organizational elements (known as "services") of the Administration.

(b) The Secretary shall ensure that any quality assurance entity established and operated under subsection (a) is established and operated so as to meet generally applicable governmental standards for independence and internal controls for the performance of quality reviews of Government performance and results.

(Added Pub. L. 106-117, §801(a)(1), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1585.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 106-117, title VIII, §801(b), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1586, provided that: "Subchapter III of chapter 77 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect at the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 30, 1999]."

#### SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 7732, 7734 of this title.

### § 7732. Functions

The Under Secretary for Benefits, acting through the quality assurance entities established under section 7731(a), shall on an ongoing basis perform and oversee quality reviews of the functions of each of the principal organizational elements of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

(Added Pub. L. 106-117, §801(a)(1), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1585.)

### § 7733. Personnel

The Secretary shall ensure that the number of full-time employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration assigned to quality assurance functions under this subchapter is adequate to perform the quality assurance functions for which they have responsibility.

(Added Pub. L. 106-117, §801(a)(1), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1585.)

### § 7734. Annual report to Congress

The Secretary shall include in the annual report to the Congress required by section 529 of this title a report on the quality assurance activities carried out under this subchapter. Each such report shall include—

(1) an appraisal of the quality of services provided by the Veterans Benefits Administration, including—

- (A) the number of decisions reviewed;
- (B) a summary of the findings on the decisions reviewed;
- (C) the number of full-time equivalent employees assigned to quality assurance in each division or entity;
- (D) specific documentation of compliance with the standards for independence and internal control required by section 7731(b) of this title; and
- (E) actions taken to improve the quality of services provided and the results obtained;

(2) information with respect to the accuracy of decisions, including trends in that information; and

(3) such other information as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(Added Pub. L. 106-117, §801(a)(1), Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1585.)

## CHAPTER 78—VETERANS' CANTEEN SERVICE

Sec.

- 7801. Purpose of Veterans' Canteen Service.
- 7802. Duties of Secretary with respect to Service.
- 7803. Operation of Service.
- 7804. Financing of Service.
- 7805. Revolving fund.
- 7806. Budget of Service.
- 7807. Audit of accounts.
- 7808. Service to be independent unit.
- 7809. Child-care centers.
- 7810. Exemption from personnel ceilings.

#### AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, 405, substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" in item 7802.

Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(a), (c)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238, 239, redesignated chapter 75 of this title as this chapter and renumbered items 4201 to 4210 as 7801 to 7810, respectively.

1988—Pub. L. 100-322, title IV, §§412(b), 414(b)(2), May 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 548, 549, added items 4209 and 4210.

### § 7801. Purpose of Veterans' Canteen Service

The Veterans' Canteen Service (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the "Service") in the Department is an instrumentality of the United States, created for the primary purpose of making available to veterans of the Armed Forces who are hospitalized or domiciled in hospitals and homes of the Department, at reasonable prices, articles of merchandise and services essential to their comfort and well-being.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1248, §4201; renumbered §7801 and amended Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(a), (b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404; Pub. L. 107-14, §8(a)(16), June 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 35.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2001—Pub. L. 107-14 substituted "hereinafter" for "hereafter".

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 4201 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted "Department" for "Veterans' Administration" in two places.

### § 7802. Duties of Secretary with respect to Service

(a) **LOCATIONS FOR CANTEENS.**—The Secretary shall establish, maintain, and operate canteens where deemed necessary and practicable at hospitals and homes of the Department and at other Department establishments where similar essential facilities are not reasonably available from outside commercial sources.

(b) **WAREHOUSES AND STORAGE DEPOTS.**—The Secretary shall establish, maintain, and operate such warehouses and storage depots as may be necessary in operating the canteens.

(c) **SPACE, BUILDINGS, AND STRUCTURES.**—The Secretary shall furnish the Service for its use in